

Certificate of Need Task Force Meeting
May 17, 2006
Meeting Minutes

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Eileen Cody
Norm Charney, MD
Steve Hill
Denise Hopkins, D.D.S.
Kathy Marshall
Palmer Pollock
Mary Selecky
Jon Smiley
Robby Stern
Janet Varon
Carolyn Watts, Ph.D., Chair
Rick Woods

TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Barbara Bailey
Senator Alex Deccio
Dorothy Graham
Senator Pat Thibaudeau

INTERESTED PUBLIC PARTIES PRESENT

Vicki Austin
Stacey Baker
Gary Bennett
Chris Blake
Jane Beyer
Jonathan Eames
Bart Eggen
Cynthia Forland
Tom Granger
Lisa Jeremiah
Robb Menaul
Ellie Menzies
Scott Plack
Edith Rice
Jeff Vyyek
Phil Watkins

PRESENT via PHONE

Robin Appleford
Donna Goodwin
Gail McGaffick

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Fisher, MD
Linda Glaeser, RN
Tom Piper, Consultant
Beverly Skinner

Topic	Discussion	Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Introductions of members, staff and public parties were made.	Support Staff will ask the Chair of the Health Committee if another Senator will be present for future Task Force meetings.
Agenda Review		
Minutes Review	The resignation of Senator Pat Thibaudeau from the Task	

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Announcements	<p>Force was announced. Previously announced resignations from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Debra Hatfield, Michael Kelly, Scott Scherer, and Lloyd Smith were repeated.</p> <p>There were no changes made to the agenda.</p> <p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>	
<p>CON Purpose and Goals Discussion TAC Feedback Agency Subgroup</p>	<p>Steve Hill presented a summary report concerning WA state's health planning history, information on what other states do regarding their State Health Plan, and alternatives for a Washington State planning process.</p> <p>Discussion highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fact that the legislature would like the TF to give a clear direction for CON along with goals. • The TF recognizes the need for an overall broader planning process; without it CON cannot effectively operate. • The Final TF CON Report should contain a recommendation for a Washington State Health Plan. <p>Palmer Pollock, representing the TAC, requested the TF to include in the recommendation that an integral piece of state health planning is a data system that informs the process.</p> <p>Palmer Pollock presented the TAC's recommendations on purpose and goals. Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of consideration for evidence based CON criteria where applicable; 	<p>The TF who are also members of the Blue Ribbon Commission project will communicate the thoughts on a State Health Plan to the Blue Ribbon Commission prior to the completion of the TF final report.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirmation that the Preamble be used as the opening statement in the final report; • Recognition that medical care supply influences demand. 	
CON General Review Criteria Discussion	Palmer Pollock presented TAC recommendations on Review Criteria. Discussion emphasized that existing criteria should be updated and refined periodically.	
CON Scope of Coverage Discussion	<p>Linda Glaeser reviewed the revisions to the Summary Document of Services Eligible for CON Review and noted that on page 4 of the General Qualifiers and Considerations, Items 11 thru 16 are new items from the latest TAC discussion.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CON language and process needs to be flexible for emerging technologies, services and trends. • Home Health and Hospice be in the Propose as New Consideration column. • Under Surgery on right hand column: change wording to be clear that all Ambulatory Surgery Centers regardless of ownership need CON oversight. 	<p>Staff will put clarification wording on the General Qualifiers and Considerations page to indicate that the numbered list is a parking lot of comments and concerns.</p> <p>Tom Piper will share with the TF the flexible language other states have used for new and emergent technology</p> <p>Ask the TAC to consider the topic of why not all Home Health and Hospice are subject to CON.</p>
CON Service & Facility Specific Policies Discussion	The TF reviewed the Facility Specific Policies document that was presented for information as the TAC has only begun discussion of the document (document was prepared as a discussion generating tool). The TAC intends to conclude discussion of the topic at their 5/25/06 meeting.	

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	<p>Discussion included the following points: The Commission approach for final decision making was identified as a preferable method that could have favorable impact the rate of appeal if concern about impartiality were a factor.</p> <p>It was suggested that the commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be small (3 – 5) in size. 2. Composed of people who represent quality, access and efficiency and not economic interests. 	<p>The TF suggested that the TAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add language specifying under C that CON be guided by the state health plan. • Clarify wording in C. #14 related to level playing field.
<p>Presentation/Discussion on CON monitoring in other states</p>	<p>Tom Piper provided a summary of CON operational and compliance procedures in other states (thirty six states have a CON process). Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been consistent efforts by the states to: avoid duplication of services, use utilization as a chief guide for determining need, and to restrict surplus. • Quality is addressed but defined differently by each state. Most states focus on high impact services and utilize financial thresholds. • The monitoring component is generally outlined in statute. • Decisions, in a large number of the states, are made by a commission type group. • CON programs have been designed with the intention of providing balance or the public interest and provider competition, remain community oriented, allow for the public to have the resources to make decisions, and remain a public forum. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although related data may be difficult to gather, collection is viewed as extremely important so that CON decisions can be data driven. 	
CON Monitoring Discussion	It was confirmed that WA monitors only until the project is operational.	
June – October Final Report Production Schedule	<p>A listing of “core principles” was prepared as a reference during the writing of the final report.</p> <p>The final report, a report from the Task Force and not HCA, will be written in sections. HCA staff will prepare the initial draft of each section for review and comment by the entire membership. A subgroup composed of Dorothy Graham, Palmer Pollock, Cindy Watts, and Rick Woods will receive and consider the comments in revising the draft of each specific section.</p> <p>The drafted sections, as revised, d will be posted on the web site for public viewing. As each subsequent draft section is completed, it will be added to the web site posting. The entire report, as drafted, will then be reviewed and edited as necessary at the final Task Force meeting.</p> <p>HCA Legislative Relations staff have been enlisted to assist in “reading for understandability” and WA Legislative format.</p> <p>Formally submitted comments from both TF members and the public will be incorporated into the final report.</p>	<p>Linda Glaeser and Tom Piper were asked to keep track and summarize the themes and policy statements that the TF would like to focus on for inclusion in the report.</p> <p>Staff will give written instructions for editing or commenting on the chapters to the TF.</p>

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	The outlined schedule is based upon the current OFM procedure for Submission of Reports to the Legislature. Discussion included concern that the procedure did not apply in the case of a report from a Task Force established by the Legislature, rather than a report from an agency. Steve Hill will request an exception to the procedure and timelines.	Staff will revise the schedule, as indicated, by the discussions with OFM.
Public Comment	None	
Meeting Wrap-up		
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.	